



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Minutes 10/13/2009

**VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP**

**SPY POND COMMITTEE**

**OCTOBER 13, 2009 MEETING**

**Town Hall Annex, First Floor**

**In attendance:** Brad Barber, Jim Doherty,, Bill Eykamp, Elizabeth Karpati, Bob & Harriet Noyes, Steve Ricci, Stroker Rogovin.

**Facilitator:** Steve Ricci

**Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

**Next meetings:** 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, November 10 and December 8, 2009.

Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conference Room.

- The **minutes** of the previous meeting were accepted as presented.
- **Town Day** went well. The Vision 2020 booth was "adorned" with a sample of phragmites; information about the project was made available, and a number of people took donation forms.

### **Phragmites project:**

- The first phase was done last week. All the small patches growing in the water were sprayed with herbicide, as well as most of the in-water part of the two large patches. In the next several weeks (barring frost) the herbicide will be drawn down into the roots to kill them. Since the roots in a patch are connected, some of the plants growing on land may also be killed.
- Botanist Frances Clark checked for the endangered sedge. She found some specimens and will update the map for Natural Heritage. We should get a copy of this updated map.
- Follow-up: Cut dead phragmites in winter, stack it in Kelwyn Manor Park; DPW will remove it from there. Submit report to Con Com and Natural Heritage before next herbicide application.
- Next year will be more complicated, requiring dealing with about 25 abutters who have phragmites on their land, and replanting of cleared areas will be required. Brad has talked to Mickey Marcus of New England Environmental about planting plans. But we will not have to deal with Natural Heritage again, since the sedge locations have been identified.
- Funding: Some money is left over from this year but more will be needed for next year.

### **Other items:**

- **Sandbar:** Steve will talk to Mike Rademacher about next steps. The sandbar ends in a silt bar, since silt is lighter and floats farther. These days MassHighway uses salt without sand.
- On the **Town website** there is little information about Spy Pond and it is hard to find. Jim Doherty will check it out and see whether information from the website that used to be run by Dave Kopans (e.g. the bird list) can be added. Perhaps a student from the High School can be recruited each year to maintain the Spy Pond page on the Town website.
- The **water level** in the pond has been higher than usual all summer because of the rains. **Turbidity** has been the worst in years, 0.8 m as measured by Bill Eykamp.
- There was discussion of having a meeting with a **speaker**, targeted to abutters, neighbors, and groups like Friends of Spy Pond Park. Dual purpose of recruitment and education. Possible speakers: Frances Clark, Richard Duffy. Possible topics: history; recreational opportunities; phragmites and better shoreline plantings; “what’s in it for the abutters.” Steve will try to develop this idea, probably for a March event (weeknight or weekend?)